Under the North East Industrial Policy Package, there is no provision for direct investment by Government for industrial activities. However, the Government provides facilities/incentives to encourage private entrepreneurs to set up industries and therefore the initiative for setting up of industries, rests entirely with the private entrepreneurs.

Indian, view on multilateral environment agreement

2475. DR. M.N. DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a submission to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, India has pointed out that the term multilateral environment agreement contained in the Doha declaration should only include agreements negotiated under the aegis of the United National or specialized agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) if so, whether India has turned down Japan's definition of Environment Pact;

(c) if so, what were the main reasons for turn down of Japan's definition of Environment Pact; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Japan in its submission to WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Special Session dated 3rd October, 2002 submitted that the scope of mandate for negotiations under paragraph 31 (i) of Doha Ministerial Declaration should include an MEA open to any country sharing the environmental objective of the agreement and developed and agreed, taking into account works including those under the aegis of the UN or its specialized agencies and with the participation of a substantial number of the countries, reflects the interests of major Parties with substantial trade interest, actual and potential major producers and consumers of materials concerned.

The Indian submission proposed that the scope of mandate for the negotiations under paragraph 31 (i) should include those environmental agreements where there must have been effective participation in the negotiations by countries belonging to different geographical regions and by countries at different stages of economic and social development along with other criteria. India submitted that Japan's qualification of an MEA as one that *"...reflects the interests of major Parties concerned, such as Parties with substantial trade interests, actual and potential major producers and consumers of materials concerned"* is perhaps more appropriate for a plurilateral agreement since it introduces a distinction between WTO Members by dividing them into formal categories — "major Parties" and "others". The submission stated that this qualification, in Indian view, is not relevant in this context.

Restriction on textiles import in America and European countries

†2476. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of textiles has been restricted to a particular limit due to prevailing quota system in America and European countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no restriction on the import of textiles from said countries to India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Till December 31, 1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries including U.S.A., member countries of the European Union and Canada had been governed by bilateral textile agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.